



401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 **Bloomington IN 47404** 

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# **GET INVOLVED ... VOLUNTEER!**

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department volunteers provide valuable services to the community by assisting in many events and programs in a variety of ways. Volunteers can participate on a regular basis or on occasion as desired. There are many opportunities to choose from and an assortment of times and days available.

#### Volunteer opportunities exist in the following areas:

- Adult sports
- Class instructors
- Clerical services
- Community events

- Cultural arts
- Environmental efforts
- Farmers' Market
- Inclusion programs
- Park projects
- Research/survevs
- Senior citizen programs
- Trail maintenance
- Youth sports
  - Youth programs

If you would like to volunteer at the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, register online at bloomington, in. gov/parksvol.

For additional information regarding volunteer opportunities, contact Nikki Wooten at 812-349-3739 or wootenn@bloomington.in.gov.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department • Volunteer Opportunities 401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 • Bloomington IN 47404

## Make friends • Earn service learning credits Gain experience • Have fun

## EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shifts.

#### **Community Gardening**

#### Schedule a Day, May-October

Grow closer to local food! Community Gardening grows both plants and community. Since 1984, the Parks and Recreation Department has offered community gardening opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. A favorite venue of volunteer groups, the gardens benefit from a number of service projects throughout the year.

Volunteers assist the staff in maintaining paths, turning compost,

weeding, and harvesting as well as creating and maintaining ornamental, wildlife, and demonstration plantings.

**Program Time:** Schedule your group for a two- to three-hour shift. Willie Streeter or Butler Park Community Gardens Location:

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

#### **Volunteer to Maintain** our Natural Spaces

#### Schedule a Day, May-November

Help maintain and restore some of Bloomington's most scenic natural areas. Many group volunteer projects are available throughout the Bloomington community. Help is needed in the parks listed below.

**Duties:** Staff will work with your group or organization to formulate a

work plan. Duties may include applying wood chips or gravel to paths, removing invasive plant species, trimming obstructive

vegetation, or re-routing trails.

Schedule your group for a three- to four-hour shift. **Program Time:** Leonard Springs Nature Park, Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, Wapehani Mountain Bike Park, RCA Community Park,

Winslow Woods Park, and Bryan Park.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: Groups of 5–25

#### **Bryan Park Creek Maintenance Days** Wednesdays, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5

Bloomington Parks and Recreation has earned Community Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation. The Bryan Park Creek naturalized area played a key role in certification and requires periodic maintenance to control invasive plant species and ensure native plant success

Volunteers assist with monthly upkeep of this natural area along Duties: beautiful Bryan Park Creek. Help maintain native plants by cutting

back overgrown brush, removing invasive plants, and collecting native plant seeds.

**Program Time:** 

Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.—Woodlawn Shelter Location:

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied by

an adult.)

#### Number of Volunteers: 5–30

Learn to Ride

#### Tue.-Wed.-Thur., May 3-5 and Tue.-Wed.-Thur., May 10-12

Children will spend the entire summer cruising on their bicycles after this Bloomington Bikes Week program. Participants learn how to confidently and safely ride their bikes through individual instruction, and also learn about bike maintenance, road safety, and proper bike and helmet fittings.

Proper instruction is an important aspect of bicycle riding. Volunteers

collaborate with Parks and Recreation staff to teach children riding etiquette and techniques that will keep them safe as they ride their bikes.

**Program Time:** 4–5:30 p.m. for Session 1 and 5–6:30 for Session 2 Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, 2700 E. Rogers Rd.—

southeast corner of parking lot

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs, and up Number of Volunteers: 4–6 per day

Sign up for one or both sessions of Learn to Ride. Volunteers Other: will do a lot of running. Class will be rescheduled in case of

inclement weather

#### 50+ Expo

**Program Time:** 

#### Tuesday, May 10/Event Setup Wednesday, May 11/Event

For more than 40 years, the 50+ Expo has been the community's premier showcase of businesses and organizations whose products

and services are geared toward people ages 50 years and up. Volunteers may decorate, direct exhibitors to their spaces, greet

participants, distribute 50+ Expo information, collect participant

feedback, and tear down the event. Tuesday, May 10 shift: 2-5 p.m. (6 volunteers)/Event setup

Wednesday, May 11 shifts:

Shift #1, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (5 volunteers)/Exhibit hall assistants Shift #2, 2:30–4:45 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table Shift #3, 3–5 p.m. (2 volunteers)/General Expo and evaluations

Shift #4, 4:30–6:30 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table Shift #5, 5–7 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Evaluation table

Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd Location: Age of Volunteers:

16 yrs. and up



RSVP volunteers at the 2015 50+ Expo.

#### Ferguson Dog Park Cleanup Days

#### Wednesdays, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, and October 12

Bloomington Parks and Recreation opened Ferguson Dog Park, a park specifically for dogs and their owners, in fall 2012. Our goal is to offer a safe and environmentally clean green space at the park. Periodic maintenance and upkeep is needed to ensure a sustainable park

**Duties:** Several landscaped areas enhance the aesthetics of the dog park

and help address potential environmental hazards associated with maintaining the park. Volunteers learn more about the proactive work being done by our natural resources area and help maintain

**Program Time:** 

Ferguson Dog Park, 1100 S. 4300 N. Stone Mill Rd. Location: Age of Volunteers:

12 yrs. and up (Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied

by an adult.)

Number of Volunteers: 5–30

#### **Bike Rodeo**

## Saturday, May 21

The Bike Rodeo is a free, family-oriented event that both entertains and educates children on cycling safety and the importance of wearing bike helmets. Participants can bike through an obstacle course, enjoy healthy snacks, and learn something new!

If you value child safety, the Bike Rodeo provides a great

opportunity to get involved. Volunteers assist with the safety challenge course, fit bike helmets, and distribute snacks.

**Program Time:** 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Parking lot on Rogers and Tenth Streets (by the B-Line Trail) Location: Age of Volunteers:

Number of Volunteers: 5–7

## Active Living Coalition Health Fair Saturday, May 21

Get up, get out, and get active at the Active Living Coalition's annual Health Fair! Patrons can visit more than 20 health and wellness-related booths, watch exercise demonstrations, take home some special giveaways, and gather all the information needed to live a healthy lifestyle!

Support health and wellness efforts in our

community. Early morning volunteers set up the event and assist exhibitors, while late morning volunteers distribute water,

welcome participants returning from the walk, and deconstruct the walking route

Shift #1, 8:30–10 a.m./Shift #2, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Program Time: Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 1–2 per shift

National Trails Day 2016

Saturday, June 4

TOUCH

Participate in the American Hiking Society's 24th Anniversary of National Trails Day! Hiking trails allow us to keep in touch with the natural world while exercising and relieving stress. A wide variety of recreation, fitness, and transportation goals can be achieved with a good trail system

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the trails at Griffy Lake **Duties:** 

Nature Preserve. **Program Time:** 9 a.m.-noon

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3300 N. Headley Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 14 yrs. and up (Children under 14 yrs. must be accompanied by an

adult

Number of Volunteers: 25

Touch a Truck Wednesday, June 15 Rain date: Thursday, June 16

Children get up close and personal with fire trucks, ambulances, buses, bucket trucks, and more. They explore the inner workings or the outside gadgets of the big rigs they have always been curious about!

Do you enjoy seeing amazement on the faces of small abildural 2 **Duties:** of small children? Come experience it firsthand.

> Volunteers assist with event setup, monitor stations, and distribute refreshments and snacks to our guests.

Shift #1, 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m./Shift #2, noon-3 p.m. **Program Time:** Location: Twin Lakes Sports Park, 2350 W. Bloomfield Rd.—parking lot

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 5 per shift

**Backyard Beach Party** 

Tuesdays, June 21 and July 19

Watch the Banneker backyard become the neighborhood super sunny beach! Children make castles in the sand, keep cool in the sprinkler, and have fun with beach toys. Duties: Volunteers assist with event setup, activities, and teardown

afterwards 9:30 a.m.-noon **Program Time:** 

Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 2 per day

**Bug Fest** 

Saturday, June 25

Visitors learn all about amazing insects at Bloomington's fourth annual Bug Fest! Go on an insect safari, handle cool insects, make a craft, and participate in a mealworm race or cricketspitting contest. The day includes speakers and information booths on a variety of buggy topics. Partners include Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Parks and Recreation, The WonderLab Museum, Purdue Extension office, Hillton Garden

and Nature Center, and City of Bloomington Utilities Department.

**Duties:** Volunteers engage children in bug exploration. Discuss various types of bugs, lead a bug activity, or work with our speaker series. Share your interest in outdoor education with children. It inspires!

Shift #1. 9 a.m.-1 p.m./Shift #2. 12:45 a.m.-4 p.m. **Program Time:** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2367 E. 10th St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 7–8 per shift

Fourth of July Parade

Monday, July 4

Everybody loves a PARADE! People with lawn chairs in hand head downtown to celebrate while waving their flags proudly! The Parade is brought to the community by Bloomington Parks and Recreation and Downtown Bloomington, Inc., and is sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Laurens B. Strain Post 604, and Artistic Media Partners.

Volunteers help with road closures and organizing entries in **Duties:** 

specified staging areas. **Program Time:** 7:30 a.m.-noon

Meet at the Sample Gates, Indiana and Kirkwood Avenues. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 2

Bryan Park Itsy Bitsy Kids Triathlon Saturday, July 16

Encourage children ages 5–10 yrs. to get active with this fun, non-competitive event! The triathlon includes a 50-meter swim in Bryan Park Pool, 1.5-mile cycle, and ½-mile run. Every child who takes part is a winner!

Promote active living for all ages. Volunteers **Duties:** prepare the course, direct traffic during the bike

and run legs, and cheer on every participant.

**Program Time:** 8-11 a.m.

Bryan Park Pool, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.-

parking lot Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs and un

Number of Volunteers: 20

#### Messy Mania

Kids get crazy with their hands when we let them experiment with all kinds of messy mediums, with no worries about creating chaos in the house! These hands-on activities will delight every youngster who loves to squish, splatter, and fling! We take care of the prep time and clean up, while children experience a morning of head-to-toe, ooey gooey good times!

Have ooey gooey fun helping kids make ooey gooey projects! **Duties:** Volunteers assist with preparation, hands-on activities, and don't

forget the cleanup that follows. **Program Time:** Shift #1, 7:30–11 a.m./Shift #2, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St. Location: Age of Volunteers: 14 yrs, and up

Number of Volunteers: 10 per shift

Other: Wear clothing you don't mind getting messy.

#### **Tomato Tasting**

#### Saturday, August 6

Tuesday, July 12

Experience the spectrum of heirloom tomatoes the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market has to offer. Yellow, orange, purple, green—patrons are able to taste a kaleidoscope of colors and expand their horizons beyond the common red tomato!

Take part in one of the glories of summer as you distribute samples of different tomatoes. Shift #1, 7:30–10 a.m./Shift #2, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. **Program Time:** 

Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 8-12 per shift

#### **Drool in the Pool**

Wednesday, August 10 Thursday, August 11

Mills Pool is closed for humans, but is open for two more days of swimming for our canine friends. The first evening features dog paddling fun and a jumping contest. The second evening is filled with a variety of entertaining contests, giveaways, and more swimming. Various pet-related businesses and organizations will be on hand during the second night only. Dog guards are on duty to supervise any dogs gone wild but are not expected to get into the pool.

Don't let the dog days of summer get you down. Assist with doggie giveaways and contests and become a dog lifeguard! Help give our four-legged friends two days to relax at the pool!

**Program Time:** 4·30–8·30 n m

Mills Pool, 1100 W. 14th St. Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers: 5 per evening

#### **Junk in the Trunk**

#### Saturday, August 20

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The Junk in the Trunk community rummage sale is recycling and treasure hunting all at the same time! There is plenty of room outside the Frank Southern Ice Arena for many different vendors to set up and sell unwanted furniture, books, clothing, toys, household goods, and more. Be where the treasures are. Volunteers assist **Duties:** 

Trunk staff in setup and running the event. There will also be time to do your own treasure hunting

Shift #1, 6:30–10 a.m./Shift #2, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. **Program Time:** Location: Frank Southern Ice Arena, 2100 S. Henderson St Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs, and up

Number of Volunteers: 3-4 per shift

#### Play Day

Friday, August 26

Come out and PLAY! Bloomington has once again been named a Playful City USA by KaBOOM!, and we intend to celebrate! We'll have games, a bounce house, and playful activities for kids of all ages. The evening ends with the showing of the family-friendly movie "WALL-E" on the big screen!

Recall your childhood playing in the park. Assist with various Duties outdoor activities that promote healthy, active lifestyles.

5:45-8:15 p.m. **Program Time:** Bryan Park, 1001 S. Henderson St Location:

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 2



#### ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING: Volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation prior to program.

#### **Bloomington Walking Club**

### Thursdays, April 7-October 27

Join a fun and informal gathering of walkers to develop healthy physical activity habits and meet new friends. Walkers choose from a two- or four-mile route and go at their own pace. Presented by IU Health Bloomington, Southern Indiana Physicians, Purdue Extension, and Bloomington Parks and Recreation.

Duties: Embrace a healthy lifestyle and share it with others from the

Bloomington community. Lead the walking group on their two- or four-mile route. Ensure safety and provide encouragement

along the way.

**Program Time:** 6-7 p.m.

Olcott Park, 2300 E. Canada Dr. Location: Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1–2

**Bloomington Community** Farmers' Market

Saturdays. **April 2-November 26** 

Tuesdays, June 7-September 27

The Saturday Market spans April through November and the Tuesday Market June through September. Farmers and vendors fill market areas with locally grown produce, annual and perennial plants, and freshly baked bread Local musicians perform while patrons find their way among the corn and FARMERS MARKET tomatoes, local dairy products, and warm scents of fresh herbs. If you enjoy the ambiance of the Farmers' Market,

this is the volunteer opportunity for you! Work collaboratively with the Market supervisor with special events associated with Market and promote Parks and Recreation programs by staffing the information table.

Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tuesdays 4-7 p.m. **Program Times:** Saturdays—Showers Common, Eighth and Morton Streets Locations

Tuesdays—Next to Bloomingfoods Near West Side at Sixth and Madison Streets

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up Number of Volunteers:

Volunteer for at least one, and up to four, Saturdays/Tuesdays a month during the Market season...

#### Banneker Summer Food and Fun June 6-July 29

Help students retain math and reading skills this summer by volunteering to read with students and review basic school-age mathematics. Additionally, facilitate activities in art and science and engage children in active games and play.

Duties:

fun subjects!

Whether you enjoy working with youth or have professional aspirations to, this service opportunity gives you hands-on experience. Work one-on-one with students and help staff members and community organizations facilitate enrichment activities and field trips focused on art, science, and other

3-4 hours weekly anytime between 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. **Program Time:** (Primary need between 10 a.m.–3 p.m.)

Location: Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St. Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 4–6 per day, Monday–Friday

We ask that you commit to at least 3 hours per week. Other:

Leisure Companion May-August

The Leisure Companion Program is a service in which participants with disabilities are partnered with a volunteer companion who provides additional support during participation in inclusive activities. The level of support will vary according to the specific needs of each individual.

**Duties:** As a Leisure Companion, you facilitate inclusion by advocating for the participant, providing support during activities, protecting the

dignity of the participant, emphasizing similarities of participants, creating an environment for success, encouraging independent participation, and most of all, being a supportive friend!

**Program Times:** Dates and times will vary according to program needs. Locations of events and programs vary depending on program

registration. Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

#### Adopt-a-Trail

## October 2016-October 2017 Monthly inspections/

More than 30 trail miles in Bloomington's city parks need periodic inspections and maintenance to remain safe and usable. Volunteers have been valuable in establishing and maintaining our trails for many years. Parks and Recreation staff provide training and equipment to volunteer groups of any size for monthly trail monitoring and annual trail maintenance.

**Duties:** 

Time line:

reports on trail status. Provide basic maintenance during each visit

as needed.

Trail inspections can be completed at your leisure.

**Locations:** Various trails are available for adoption.

Adopt-an-Acre

#### October 2016-October 2017 Monthly inspections/ One-year commitment

Adopt-an-Acre is an all-volunteer program that gives the public the opportunity to actively address Monroe County's invasive plant issues. Griffy Lake Nature Preserve has thriving populations of bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, winter creeper, privet, and multiflora rose, all of which are outcompeting native plants. Parks and Recreation staff provide the necessary

> area of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve a minimum of once a month. Complete and submit monthly progress reports. Attend quarterly training workshops or review electronic training materials to

for removing.

**Program Time:** Inspections and progress visits can be completed at your leisure

An orientation takes place in October. One-year appointment

Various parcels of land are available for adoption at Griffy Lake

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome.

Adopt-a-Stream

Locations:

Time line:

#### October 2016-October 2017 Monthly inspections/ One-year commitment

Adopt a Stream is an all-volunteer program that gives the public an opportunity to be actively involved in conserving and maintaining the natural wealth and beauty of streams that run through public park property owned by the City of Bloomington and Monroe County. Staff provides training and equipment for monthly stream monitoring and annual stream

> Inspect adopted stream at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on stream condition. Provide general maintenance

**Program Time:** 

Volunteers must submit an online application by September 30.

**Locations:** 

Age of Volunteers:



National Trails Day 2015 volunteers

# One-vear commitment

Inspect adopted trail at least once a month. Complete and submit

**Program Time:** 

Volunteers must submit an online application by September 30. An orientation takes place in October. One-year appointment

starts in October.

Age of Volunteers: 12 vrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of vacant trails.

training in invasive plant identification and equip volunteers to proactively monitor and remove impeding plants within their adopted areas. **Duties:** Inspect and make progress in removing invasive plants in adopted

adequately identify invasive plants and learn proper techniques

Volunteers must submit an online application by September 30.

starts in October.

Nature Preserve. There are plot sizes appropriate for individuals

maintenance. **Duties:** 

such as removing debris and litter. Attend a Hoosier Riverwatch

workshop and perform water quality monitoring tests at the stream at least four times per year. Stream inspections can be completed at your leisure.

An orientation takes place in October. One-year appointment starts in October. Various streams are available for adoption in Bloomington and

Monroe County 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of streams available.